

Standard USG-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of the American republic—its basic democratic principles and its political systems.

USG-2.3 Compare fundamental values, principles, and rights that are in conflict with one another in the American political system and the ways in which such conflicts are typically resolved, including conflicts that arise from diversity, conflicts between individual rights and social stability, and conflicts between liberty and equality. (P, H)

Taxonomy Level: 2.6-B Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

Students will have little, if any, previous knowledge of this indicator. They will have studied historical examples of conflicts between American values and the application of those values – most notably in racial matters. There will have been no attempt to analyze current discrepancies, investigate the intrinsic nature of political conflict, and how to deal with that conflict within a governmental context.

It is essential for students to know that in a democratic society there is inherent conflict as the various factions seek to achieve their goal(s). Students should be able to summarize typical conflicts that will arise in democracies and to look at specific contemporary examples of conflict in the U.S. (as well as at potential future conflicts). They need to be able to use these conflicts as models to assess the structure of the U.S. governmental system and how it is designed to provide a forum for these issues to be resolved.

It is not essential for students to know specific historical or contemporary examples of conflict.

Assessment guidelines:

It is the objective of this indicator to compare the expression and realization of core ideals in the American political system. It is appropriate to ask students to identify and summarize instances where ideals have not been realized and to evaluate the response to those failures. Students should critique these ideals and determine where conflict is inherent and develop methods of handling these disputes.